

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3902

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID

SUBJECT: PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAM

REF: CARACAS 4369

SUMMARY: GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA DESIRES CONTINUATION
OF PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES ON REIMBURSABLE BASIS, TO
BE FUNDED OUT OF ITS 1975 BUDGET. END SUMMARY.

ACTION REQUESTED: AUTHORIZATION BY DEPARTMENT/AID/
WASHINGTON TO INFORM GOV THAT WE AGREE IN PRINCIPLE
TO APPROACH IT HAS PROPOSED AND THAT WE ARE PREPARED
TO PROCEED TO WORK OUT DETAILS.

1. VICE MINISTER OF INTERIOR GROOSCORS CALLED ON ME
MAY 20 UNDER INSTRUCTIONS OF HIS MINISTER TO INFORM
ME THAT HIS GOVERNMENT DESIRED TO HAVE THE CONTINUED
SERVICES OF U.S. PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORS, PAID FOR BY
THE GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA.

2. GROOSCORS SAID THAT MINISTER OF INTERIOR HAD
CONSULTED WITH OTHER INTERESTED OFFICIALS, INCLUDING
MINISTERS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, HEAD OF METROPOLITAN
POLICE, AND MINISTER OF FINANCE. HE SAID THE
DECISION WAS THAT FUNDING WOULD HAVE TO BE ARRANGED
THROUGH MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, ALTHOUGH THE OTHER
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SECURITY ENTITIES WOULD EXPECT TO BENEFIT FROM

ADVISORY SERVICES ALSO. REASON WAS THAT ONLY MINISTRY OF INTERIOR BUDGET CONTAINED ITEM APPROPRIATE FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF SUCH SERVICES.

3. GROOSCORS SAID THAT MINISTRY OF INTERIOR ACCORDINGLY INTENDED TO BUDGET SUFFICIENT AMOUNT IN THE FORTH-COMING GOV FISCAL YEAR (SAME AS CALENDAR YEAR 1975) TO PAY FOR PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES. ARRANGEMENTS WITH USG WOULD BE HANDLED AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL WITHOUT REQUIRING SPECIFIC APPROVAL BY VENEZUELAN CONGRESS OF A REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT, WHICH COULD RAISE UNNECESSARY PROBLEMS.

4. THE DIFFICULTY WAS THAT 1974 BUDGET DID NOT CONTAIN SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO REIMBURSE USG FOR PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES DURING LAST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR. THEREFORE, REIMBURSEMENT FOR THESE MONTHS WOULD HAVE TO COME FROM 1975 BUDGET. GROOSCORS ALSO EXPLAINED THAT UNDER GOV REGULATIONS AND PRACTICE, REIMBURSEMENTS WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE IN MONTHLY INCREMENTS, I.E. PAYMENTS MADE DURING EACH OF THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1975 WOULD COVER CURRENT COSTS PLUS RETROACTIVE REIMBURSEMENT FOR ONE OF THE MONTHS CARRIED OVER FROM 1974.

5. IN ORDER TO AVOID INTERRUPTION IN PROVISION OF PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES AND PROVIDE FOR THEIR CONTINUATION AFTER JUNE 30, 1974, VICE MINISTER AGREED TO PREPARE A LETTER FROM HIS MINISTER TO ME PLEDGING THE GOV TO REIMBURSE THE USG FOR THE COST OF SERVICES FROM JULY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 1974 OUT OF VENEZUELAN 1975 BUDGET, AND SETTING OUT GOV'S INTENTION TO CONTINUE REGULAR BUDGET PROVISION FOR REIMBURSEMENT FOR SERVICES DURING 1975.

6. I SAID I WOULD INFORM WASHINGTON IMMEDIATELY OF THE GOV OFFER AND HOPED THAT AN ARRANGEMENT COULD BE WORKED OUT ALONG THESE LINES.

7. I BELIEVE THAT THE APPROACH PROPOSED BY VICE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MINISTER GROOSCORS IS THE BEST OBTAINABLE UNDER VENEZUELAN BUDGETING PROCEDURES AND IS A REASONABLE AND DESIRABLE METHOD OF PROCEEDING. I BELIEVE IT WOULD STRONGLY SERVE OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS TO REACH AGREEMENT ALONG THESE LINES AND CONTINUE PUBLIC SAFETY ACTIVITIES SELF-FUNDED BY GOV. PROMPT INSTRUCTIONS ARE REQUESTED.
MCCLINTOCK

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